

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02568 242107Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4148

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2568

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH US ZA

SUBJ: FIRST ZAMBIAN REACTION TO SMITH SPEECH

PASS TO SECRETARY PARTY

1. CHONA CALLED IMMEDIATELY ON THE CONCLUSION OF SMITH'S SPEECH TO CLARIFY ONE POINT AND OFFER CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SECRETARY. HE HAD NOT HEARD SMITH MENTION THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD HAVE A BLACK MAJORITY AND A BLACK FIRST MINISTER. WHEN I ASSURED HIM THAT THE POINTS HAD INDEED BEEN MADE, HE WAS RELIEVED. "IT WAS FANTISTIC", HE AGREED AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY "I GUESS THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT NOW." (AS I UNDERSTAND IT THE FRONTLINE IS MEETING MONDAY.)

2. AT THE SAME TIME CHONA REFLECTED CONTINUING DISTRUST OF SMITH. RECOGNIZING THAT THE SPEECH HAD TO BE DIRECTED AT THE LOCAL CONSTITUENCY, CHONA NEVERTHELESS WAS CRITICAL OF THE EMPHASIS ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND ITS WHITE CHAIRMAN. HE SAID HE HOPED SOMEONE LIKE ROY WELENSKI WHO WAS NOT A RHODESIA FRONT MAN, WOULD BE CHOSEN.

3. MAY I ADD MY OWN CONGRATULATIONS. LOW

SECRET

NNN

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